

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE  
**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**  
KENT CONRAD, RANKING MEMBER

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**SENATOR CONRAD ANNOUNCES DEMOCRAT  
STAFF APPOINTMENTS TO BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Wide Array of Professionals Named to Give Democrats Greater Voice**

**Washington** - The newly named Democrat leader of the Senate Budget Committee, Senator Kent Conrad, D-ND, today announced the appointment of a staff director, two deputy staff directors, an economist, a communications director and a wide array of professionals who will make up the core of his Budget Committee staff. Additional hires will occur in the coming weeks.

Given this committee's early responsibility to draft Congress's annual budget plan, it is critical we bring the best and brightest staff onboard early in this new Congress to help our Democratic members write a fiscally responsible budget plan," said Senator Conrad.

My first round of staff appointments represents an excellent mix of professionals with experience either on the Budget Committee staff, longtime service in the Congress, or from the executive branch," said Conrad. "I am particularly pleased that Mary Naylor, a trusted aide who first started working in my Washington office in 1989, has agreed to serve as the committee's staff director."

Staff director Mary Naylor's congressional service includes work for Senator Paul Simon where she served as his legislative assistant on budget, trade and energy issues. In Senator Conrad's office, Naylor has held a range of legislative posts and was most recently his deputy chief of staff. She has served as Senator Conrad's primary budget staff assistant for the last eight years. Naylor is a North Dakota native and a graduate of Northwestern University.

Naylor will be assisted by two deputy staff directors, Sue Nelson and Jim Horney.

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Deputy staff director Sue Nelson is a 15 year veteran of the Senate Budget Committee where she has directed all technical aspects related to the formulation and execution of congressional budget resolutions. She has also served as a senior analyst for Medicare. Prior to her service in the Senate, Nelson worked at the Office of Management and Budget and participated in a two-year management training program at the Department of Treasury. Nelson has an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a masters degree in public affairs from the University of Texas.

Deputy staff director Jim Horney served most recently as a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities where he specialized in federal budget issues. Previously, he spent seven years at the Congressional Budget Office where he was chief of the Projections Unit in the Budget Analysis Division. He also specialized in budget issues at the General Accounting Office. In addition, Horney is an eight year staff veteran of the House Budget and Rules committees. Horney has a Ph.D. in government and politics from the University of Maryland and an undergraduate degree from Harvard College.

Chief Economist Chad Stone comes to the committee from the Council of Economic Advisers where he served as chief economist. He has worked as a government economist since 1975 having served in a variety of congressional and executive branch offices including Congress' Joint Economic Committee, the House Science Committee, the Federal Communications Commission, the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Federal Trade Commission. Stone has a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University and an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College.

Communications director Stu Nagurka returns to a congressional staff position after a four year break having served as a spokesman for the Department of Energy and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York. Prior to his appointments in the Clinton Administration, Nagurka served as press secretary to Representative Bill Richardson, D-NM, from 1988 through 1997. Nagurka is a graduate of Syracuse University.

General counsel Lisa Konwinski has served as the chief Democrat lawyer for the committee since 1997 where she drafts legislation and amendments and enforces budget points of order in the Senate. Konwinski previously worked on budget, economic and other legislative issues for Representatives Marcy Kaptur, D-OH, and Louise Slaughter, D-NY. She received her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Michigan.

Stephen Bailey joins the committee as the senior Democrat analyst for revenues. He has worked in the public policy arena for more than 25 years with experience in the private sector, Congress and executive branch. He was most recently a legislative assistant on tax related matters in Senator Conrad's Washington office. Bailey began his career in the Social

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Security Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services. He then went on to serve as Legislative Director and tax counsel to Representative Don Pease, D-OH, and he has also worked as director of a Washington lobbying firm. Bailey earned a law degree from Baltimore School of Law and has an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Shelley Amdur is a new committee staff member serving as the senior Democrat analyst for education and appropriations issues. She had worked since 1998 in the Department of Education's congressional affairs office. Amdur previously served as a senior budget analyst on the democratic staff of the House Budget Committee for 11 years where her primary responsibility was education issues. She also worked with the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition from 1978 through 1986. Amdur holds a masters degree from American University and an undergraduate degree from Skimore College.

Scott Carlson is the committee's new senior Democrat analyst for agriculture related issues. He previously served as Senator Conrad's chief agricultural policy advisor and has held other legislative positions in the Washington office. Carlson also worked as a policy advisor and communications director for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. He is a graduate of Minot State University.

Jim Esquea has been an analyst on the Democrat staff since 1999. His expertise is income security, Medicaid, veterans affairs and administration of justice. He previously worked in the Office of Management and Budget where he specialized in policy and budget matters regarding the Food and Drug Administration, regulatory reform and tobacco regulation. Esquea received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and has a masters degree in public policy and administration from Columbia University.

Dakota Rudesill joins the committee as Democrat budget analyst for national security and international affairs. He previously served for five years as national security advisor to Senator Conrad. Prior to arriving in Washington, Rudesill was the Democratic-NPL Party nominee for a seat in the North Dakota House of Representatives. Rudesill is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and is currently attending the U.S. Air Force's Air Command and Staff College.

Sarah Kuehl is the committee's new Democrat budget analyst for Social Security, transportation and community and regional development issues. She previously served as senior legislative assistant to Senator Robert Kerrey, D-NE, with an expertise on Social Security, budget and tax policy. Kuehl has also worked as a research and teaching assistant at Harvard University. Kuehl holds a masters degree in public policy from Harvard University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Denver.

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Deputy communications director Steve Posner joins the committee from the Treasury Department where he served as spokesman on tax and budget issues. He previously worked at the public affairs firm of Powell and Tate where he focused on international trade issues. Posner holds a masters degree in public policy from Harvard University and an undergraduate degree from Colgate University.

Rock Cheung remains with the committee serving as the webmaster and assistant to Democrat staff director Mary Naylor. Prior to joining the committee in January 2000, Cheung served as the systems administrator for Senator Joseph Biden, D-DE. In previous summers he has interned at the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of State. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

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